

### TAX COMMITTEE TO HOLD MEETS

#### Hearings Will Be Held at Eight Different Points in the State

Portland—The tax investigation committee, appointed by Governor Olcott in compliance with an act of the legislature of 1921, will hold public meetings at Medford, Roseburg, Eugene, Albany, Salem, McMinnville and Oregon City, for the purpose of obtaining suggestions and information which will aid the committee in the preparation of its report and recommendations to the Governor, to be submitted to the next legislature for consideration.

It is the desire of the commission that, at these public hearings, there be a full expression of ideas from local individual viewpoints as to ways and means of lightening the ever growing load of taxation in the state and its political subdivisions.

The membership of the committee is I. N. Day, chairman; Henry E. Reed; Coe A. McKenna and C. S. Chapman of Portland; E. H. Smith, Lakeview; Charles E. Brand, Roseburg; and Walter M. Pierce, La Grande.

As expressed in the act of the legislature the duty of the committee is "to gather information, formulate recommendations, prepare legislation recommendations, prepare proposed legislation and report to the governor upon the question of whether or not it is feasible to raise from other sources a substantial portion of the public revenue."

In discharging the duty imposed by the legislature the committee has made a study of tax economics and investigated the systems of other states. It is now gathering statistics on assessment and taxation in Oregon and making a critical examination of them.

The preliminary study of the commission has thus far disclosed that under present conditions real property seems to be bearing the greater part of the tax load. Intangible property, represented by money, notes, accounts, bonds and shares of stock, carry but a small percent.

Shifting of the burden from personal property to real property and the gradual decline of intangible property on assessment rolls appears to be a progressive movement.

It has also occurred to the committee that there is undue undervaluation in assessment, resulting in inequality.

To reach the intangible wealth,

which is now avoiding taxation, the committee has under consideration the imposition of a tax on personal incomes as a source of revenue from which to derive a sufficient sum to carry a portion of the expense of state administration, thereby relieving general property of a corresponding amount.

It is realized by the committee that experience has shown that the tendency following the increase of revenue is toward legislative extravagance. To forestall this, it is suggested that there be enforced constitutional limitations on taxing bodies in order that the slack produced by shifting the burden from general property to personal incomes remains permanent, and that additional sources of state income lead not to increased expenditure.

Other phases of the problem being investigated include the raising of the schedules of specific or privilege taxes, such as fees and licenses, and the reduction of the cost of state, county, city and district administration.

The committee has not yet reached any fixed opinions and is very desirous before doing so of obtaining, as far as possible, concrete suggestions from taxpayers which will aid in reaching final decision.

The dates on which the hearings will be are:

- Medford—April 24th.
- Roseburg—April 25th.
- Eugene—April 26th.
- Albany—April 27th.
- Salem—April 28th.
- McMinnville—April 29th.
- Oregon City—May 1st.

As it would be impossible for the committee to visit all county seats, the above have been selected in the view that the surrounding communities would have an opportunity to meet at a central point with the committee.

#### JURY DUTY ACCEPTABLE TO ONLY FOUR WOMEN

Checking over the return cards, Sheriff Orr finds that of the nine women summoned for jury duty at the term of circuit court that is to commence May 1st only four have expressed a willingness to serve, says the Itemizer. The other five took advantage of the exemption from duty allowed them because of their sex. The four ladies who have returned their acceptance cards are Mrs. Nellie Ferguson of Eola, the first lady to be drawn; Mrs. Beulah Holman, Mrs. Howard Coleman and Miss Julia Nunn, all of Dallas. The five to decline are: Mrs. O. E. Edwards, Fannie Butler, of Monmouth; Mrs. Emma Gertrude Davidson, of Independence; Mrs. Emma F. Loy, of Buena Vista, and Mrs. W. D. Gilliam, of Dallas R. 2.

### GERMANY AND RUSSIA FORM ECONOMIC PACT

#### Terms of Treaty Call For the Closest Cooperation Between the Two Countries.

Genoa.—A treaty between Germany and Russia was signed at Rapallo Monday, the signatories being the foreign ministers of the two countries, George Tchitcherin for Russia and Dr. Walter Rathenau for Germany.

The signing of the treaty between Germany and Russia, which nullifies the Brest-Litovsk treaty, cancels all war claims arising from the nationalization of property, and re-establishes full diplomatic relations between these two countries on a basis of equality, has caused profound astonishment and resentment among the allied delegations.

The ministers of the powers which convened the conference decided at a meeting to have a committee of experts examine this treaty to determine whether it conflicts with the Cannes resolution or the treaty of Versailles.

The British and French delegates declared that they considered the signature of the treaty a disloyal act. Apparently it may imperil the conference.

It is stated that the signing of the treaty was unknown to the allied leaders.

### ALLIES ASK DEFINITE REPLY FROM RUSSIA

Genoa.—The Russian delegates were told to answer definitely yes or no as to whether they will put into practice the conditions of the Cannes resolution and the guarantees submitted to the London experts' report, according to a French communique issued.

Premier Lloyd George of Great Britain has announced that his aim at the Genoa conference is to bring into being a pact among the 34 nations represented, agreeing not to invade one another's territories. It would be similar to the four-power pact negotiated at Washington.

Britain is against a pact with military sanctions, it was declared, because sanctions belong to the order of ideas that an endeavor is being made to get away from, and guarantees would mean a new grouping of the powers. The military holiday idea is not practical.

In response to questions, the spokesman for the British said that Mr. Lloyd George's plan resembled President Harding's idea for an association, which it was hoped would bring disarmament or a big reduction of armament in its wake.

### MANY STATE LIBRARY BOOKS GO TO FARMERS

Salem—The Oregon state library has nearly 5000 more persons entirely dependent upon it for books than has Multnomah county, and it is the tower of strength for all the struggling small libraries to which 227,115 patrons turn for their reading matter. This is the statement contained in a report prepared by Miss Cornelia Marvin, state librarian, covering the growth and activity of the library department of the state government.

"The library may be of little value and positive harm," said Miss Marvin's report. "The selection of books and the administration of them determines its value. Librarians measure the extent of actual service of a library by the number of volumes loaned and the number of persons served, and its potential service by the number of volumes added to the collection."

"In both cases the figures may mean little, and it is only by knowing the character of the books loaned or added that the value of the library work may be determined. No one has devised a statistical method showing values, as it is not a division between fiction and non-fiction, but between books which give wrong ideas of life and stir no generous emotions, the books intended to "blow out the boy's brains," old technical books, and obsolete treatises on mechanical, agricultural and technical subjects, and those books which inspire and inform men, women and children."

In the Oregon state library we purchase but little fiction, as local libraries supply this generously, but we try to discriminate and to buy only the best books, and to give a real service to those Oregonians who have no community libraries, to the 61 public libraries which have organizations for the distribution of books, but small and inadequate stocks on their shelves, and to the 700 traveling

library stations of the state library. "During the last two years the books sent out to individuals branches and libraries numbered 155,381, or a gain of more than 20,000 when compared with the figures of the previous two years. Despite the great number of books handled the losses have been small, which indicates that the borrowers appreciate the work that the library is doing."

Although hardly out of its baby clothes, the rural feature of the state library is probably one of the most important features of the department. This work was begun only a few years ago, but it has grown rapidly, and during the last few months not a mail has arrived that has not brought from one to a dozen requests for books from persons who, in the absence of the state library, would have little or no reading matter. Many of these requests come from the logging camps, where in the early days the workers contented themselves by reading light fiction and kindred literature. Since the state library has made itself known in the remote logging camps, the workers now request books dealing with mechanical subjects, agriculture, horticulture and other topics which tend to improve the education of the readers.

The farmer youth has also realized the benefits to be derived from the present library system, and hundreds of books are now sent monthly to the farming districts of the state for distribution.

Miss Marvin has had long experience in this work, and statistics show that the Oregon state library ranks high in the United States. This is due, friends of Miss Marvin say, to her ability to choose books of character.

Occasionally we run across a contented man or woman, but we haven't yet been able to figure out whether the contentment came from a lack of envy or lack of enterprise.

### EVANGELICAL MINISTERS ARE GIVEN ASSIGNMENTS

Dallas—The annual conference of the United Evangelical churches of Oregon closed Sunday night in the Dallas church with a stirring sermon by Bishop Heil of Allentown, Pa. The sessions began in the morning with a sermon by Bishop Heil, and the afternoon a missionary sermon was held with Miss Bertha Magnusson a returned missionary from China and Bishop Heil as the speakers.

Following the evening services the stationing committee composed of Bishop Heil and G. L. Lovell, presiding elder of the Oregon conference district, made the following report regarding the stationing of ministers for the ensuing year:

Oregon conference district—G. L. Lovell, presiding elder; Portland, First, C. P. Gates; Portland, St. John, H. H. Farnham; Portland, Oakdale, Green, A. R. Schmalle; Portland, Withita, E. C. Farnham; Adna, W. E. Simpson; Brooks and Middle Green, G. E. Erskine; Corvallis and Beulah, A. P. Layton, S. M. Wood as supply minister; Dallas, A. L. Lonsberry; Dayton, F. E. Fisher; Eugene, A. W. Curry; Florence, F. N. Neff; Hillsboro and Laurel, J. Holdeman; Knappa Valley, H. Correll; Lafayette, C. A. Hoyt; Lewisville and Airlie, W. A. Ballantyne; Waterloo, to be supplied Mapleton, to be supplied Rickwood, J. L. Burns; Salem, L. E. Willard; Summit, R. J. Phelps and Warren, R. Stover.

The quarterly conference members appointed are as follows: Portland, First, Dr. P. Bittner; G. D. Kinke, A. Gode; Salem, G. N. Thompson; Corvallis, R. O. Caves; Dallas, M. Young, M. J. Ballantyne; Florence, T. A. Yost; Adna, W. S. Plowman; Summit, V. Urbina; Oakley Green, Bowersox.

The conference voted to meet next year in Portland on May 24.

The Enterprise is still \$1.50 a year.



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### OREGON POULTRYMEN PLAN BIG MEETING

Tentative plans for a 1922 statewide convention of poultrymen have just been announced. August 1, 2, and 3 are the dates selected and the Oregon Agricultural college will be the place of the meeting. The proposed arrangements were made primarily because the national convention of instructors and investigators in poultry husbandry will be in session at the college the last week in July, hence it will be possible to have some of the men of national reputation remain for the state convention. Present plans are to organize a statewide association at that time.

"Every poultryman in the state should arrange to come to Corvallis and hear these noted workers," said A. G. Lunn, head of the poultry department at the college. "As August is the slack season for the poultryman we expect a large attendance." Details of the program will be announced later.

### Back to the Soil

Get the young chicks out on the ground as soon as possible, even if the weather is bad. Continued cold and rainy weather causes some poultrymen to keep the chicks in houses. In spite of the weather, however, it is best to get them out on the ground by the time they are a week old at least, and before if possible. Otherwise they are hard to train to go out and are also likely to develop leg weakness and to go off feed.—O. A. C. Experiment station.

### Hay With Spring Pasture

Give the dairy cows some hay even after turning them out on spring pasture. It pays to give them all they will clean up once a day for at least a month after pasture is good. Grain for spring fresh cows should consist mostly of fattening feeds such as corn and barley. Protein or milk stimulating feeds are abundantly supplied in the fresh grass. Fattening feeds will keep up the reserve flesh in the spring, then later in the summer the protein feeds such as oil meal and cottonseed meal can be fed.—O. A. C. Experiment station.

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